

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, US, CH, TW

SUBJECT: ROC FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON US/ROC RELATIONS
AND U.S. CHINA POLICY

REF: TAIPEI 2735

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DURING A MAY 13 INTERPELLATION BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN, FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON US/ROC RELATIONS AND U.S. CHINA POLICY. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE MAY 14 CHINA NEWS REPORT OF SHEN'S REMARKS. SIMILAR ARTICLES APPEARED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS REMAIN CLOSE AND CORDIAL. FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CHANG-HUAN STATED YESTERDAY AT THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN.

3. "HE DISCLOSED THAT BOTH SIDES MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTERESTS. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ON
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IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE KEPT OPEN TO ENSURE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING.

4. "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED ON MANY OCCASIONS RECENTLY ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SHEN SAID. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA ARE BECOMING MORE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS COUNTRY TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS, HE ADDED.

5. "THE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTED FROM HIS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE DURING YESTERDAY'S INTERPELLATION SESSION BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY SKIPPING HIS ORAL REPORT AND DEVOTED THE WHOLE SESSION TO ANSWERING QUESTIONS.

6. "SHEN SAID IT IS UNWISE TO SPECULATE ON THE PACE OF THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEIPING AS EVENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA ARE CHANGING ALL THE TIME.

7. "HE SAID THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES ENJOY ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP AND THE UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BY THE UNITED STATES SEEMS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

8. "HE NOTED THIS IS PART OF THE REASON THAT WASHINGTON AND PEIPING HAVE FAILED TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THEIR RELATIONS DESPITE THE SIGNING OF THE "SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE" THREE YEARS AGO.

9. "SHEN SAID THIS COUNTRY WILL REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO CONVINCE ITS AMERICAN ALLY OF THE UNDESIRABILITY OF APPEASING THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THE TIENANMEN INCIDENT FULLY DEMONSTRATED THE INEVITABILITY OF A FIERCE POWER STRUGGLE ONCE MAO PASSES AWAY FROM THE SCENE.

10. "THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE UNITED STATES IS FULLY AWARE OF THE MOVES OF THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. WHAT THIS COUNTRY CAN DO IS TO HELP WASHINGTON REACH THE DECISION IN DEALING WITH PEIPING. UNQUOTE.
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11. COMMENT: SHEN'S REMARKS, WHICH WERE APPARENTLY PROMPTED BY QUESTIONS RAISED BY LEGISLATORS, APPEAR TO BE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO THE LOCAL AUDIENCE. HOWEVER, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE PREMIER'S APRIL 23 INTERVIEW WITH U.S. JOURNALISTS (REFTEL), THEY PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE GROC'S OFFICIAL PUBLIC STANCE ON US/ROC RELATIONS AND U.S. CHINA POLICY.

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